

## **DESCRIPTION OF QUALITY, SCOPE, AND EXTENT OF SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

In Wisconsin, supported employment is funded by primarily three sources. Title VI, Title IB and cooperative agreements with the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Service's Division of Disability and Elder Services. To a much lesser extent Social Security PASS plans have been used to maintain a small number of individuals in long-term supported employment. All of these dollars enhance the quality, scope, and extent of services proposed under the Title VI plan.

The QUALITY of the supported employment program under Title VI includes the following components:

1. Use of State staff to provide coordination, guidance, and consultation to counselors developing and implementing supported employment individualized plans for employment under Title VI or Title I. All district offices have received training and updates on current supported employment policy. The training is provided on an ongoing basis to individuals or offices as needed as well as at regular bi-annual counselor training.
2. Provision of training through the use of annual conferences, and a "best practice" reference manuals for staff who provide supported employment. State staff are involved in the planning process for both the annual APSE conference for supported employment and the CSP conference for persons with severe and persistent mental illness and supported employment. They are also involved with the DD conference planning as well as planning for the joint WRA/RFW Rehabilitation and Transition Conference.
3. Development of comprehensive technical specifications for supported employment, which incorporate specific program evaluation measures including client and employer satisfactions measures for all supported employment providers providing services to the Division. The Technical specifications were updated this year to include stronger outcome measures and implement statewide rates for supported employment in Wisconsin.
4. Development of supported employment standards and site reviews conducted by DVR Supported Employment Unit staff for all providers who are not CARF accredited in supported employment. This process continues on a case by case basis as new vendors contract for services.
5. Development of local demonstrations and capacity building for supported employment vendors. Two joint ventures, one serving persons with developmental disabilities and the other those with severe and persistent mental illness continue in collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Services. The projects will impact 15 counties in WI.

6. Establishment and maintenance of a network among the 100 + supported employment vendors statewide and providing ongoing information and assistance to them. DVR continues to partner with the DD Network, APSE, the CSP Network, as well as continuing our ongoing partnerships with RFW and the Division of Disability and Elder Services.

The SCOPE and EXTENT of supported employment is limited by the lack of availability of extended services funding for ongoing vocational support. The expansion of these extended services is dependent on; (1) the capacity of the long-term support system to develop/redirect funds to supported employment and (2) the ability of DVR staff to identify and use other extended support resources such as Plans to Achieve Self-Support (PASS), Impairment Related Work Expenditures (IRWE), family support, employer support, natural supports, etc.

The Individual Plan for Employment (IPE) for consumer who select supported employment must identify the source of extended supports or, if the source of extended services cannot be identified at the time of implementation of the plan, the IPE must identify the services, activities and/or progress measures designed to identify the nature, type, scope, requirements and source of extended services in a manner consistent with the Act and its implementing regulations. WDVR does not provide extended services as defined in 361.5(b)(20). Supported employment services are provided only to those individuals with the most significant disabilities and who have an identified likely source of long term support.